

News Clippings

December 24, 2008

Flood

Fort Wayne

Rain, melting snow raises flood concerns for weekend

[Read the Article](#)

Emergency Response

Indianapolis

Cold Weather Brings Risk Of Hypothermia

[Read the Article](#)

Shelbyville

Check on neighbors during extreme cold

[Read the Article](#)

Indianapolis

Indiana Disaster Assistance over \$58 Million

[Read the Article](#)

Indianapolis

Homeland Security awards outstanding performance

[Read the Article](#)



Rain, melting snow raises flood concerns for weekend

Updated: Dec 24, 2008 12:02 AM EST

Fort Wayne - The National Weather Service on Tuesday warned residents of northern Indiana about a significant flooding threat this weekend because of expected heavy rains later in the week and a rapid snow melt.

Ice jams could further increase the likelihood of flooding, the weather service said.

Freezing rain moving across the state caused travel troubles for southern and central Indiana Tuesday afternoon. The weather was blamed for a crash that killed an Indianapolis couple whose car slid off the road and hit a line of trees in Whitestown, police said.

Evansville's bus system suspended service for several hours because of ice-covered roads and authorities closed sections of Indiana 37 around Bloomington. Numerous accidents also tied up roads in and around Indianapolis, where sections of Interstate 465 and I-69 were closed.

Gov. Mitch Daniels also canceled a planned trip Tuesday to Fort Wayne and Elkhart because of the poor weather.

The new troubles came as work continued in Fort Wayne to restore power from the ice storm that hit the city last week. Indiana Michigan Power said about 15,000 homes and businesses remained without power Tuesday night as crews had to take some customers out of service temporarily to safely repair lines. At the peak, some 109,000 customers in northeastern Indiana were without power.

The weather service issued a winter weather advisory for much of the state.

Central Indiana was expected to receive less than an inch of snow on Tuesday before temperatures were expected to warm, leading to sleet and freezing rain. In northern Indiana, some areas were expected to receive 2 to 4 inches of snow on Tuesday and another 2 to 4 inches on Wednesday.

The weather service was warning drivers to be prepared for treacherous conditions with slippery roads and limited visibility and urged travelers to use caution.

Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry was warning city workers Tuesday to be prepared to work overtime with the potential upcoming weather problems.

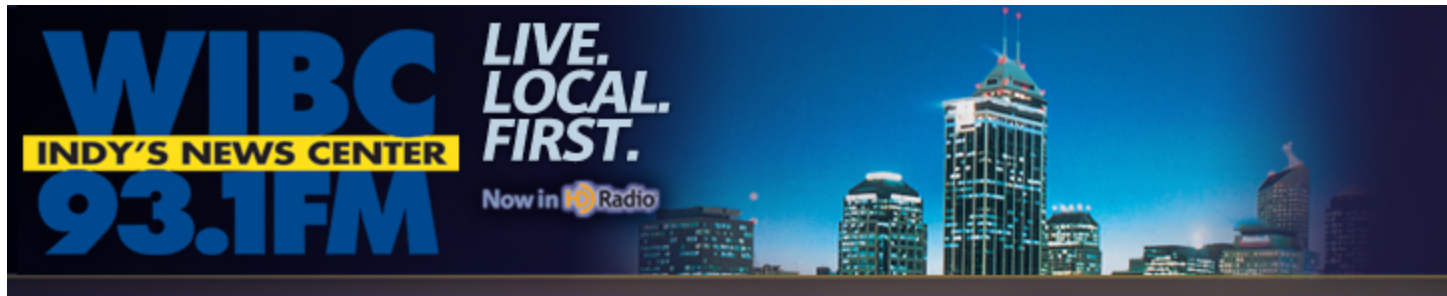
"Again, we're in a situation where we have very tight budgets, so we're going to have to move money around to make ends meet, but our citizens come first," he said.

The city said both the street and parks departments are working full, extended shifts in an attempt to clean city roadways of debris.

Indiana Michigan Power says most Fort Wayne customers should have their power restored by Wednesday night, although full restoration of power isn't expected until Friday night.

(Copyright 2008 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.)

[Back to Top](#)



Cold Weather Brings Risk Of Hypothermia

Homeland Security Says Nosy Neighbors Could Save Lives

By Stan Lehr

12/22/2008

A warning from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security--exposure to cold temperatures, whether indoors or outside, can cause serious or life-threatening health problems. Infants and the elderly are particularly at risk, but anyone can be affected.

D.H.S. says many homes will be too cold--because of power failure or inadequate heating or insulation. Spokeswoman Rachel Meyer suggest you check on neighbors who might be at risk.

She says the signs of possible hypothermia in an adult are shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, loss of memory, slurred speech and drowsiness. An infant might have very low energy and cold, red skin.

If you notice any of these signs, she says you should take the person's temperature. If it is below 95°, the situation is an emergency--requiring medical attention immediately.

If medical care is not available, you should get the victim into a warm room or shelter and remove wet clothing. You can use an electric blanket or skin-to-skin contact, warming the chest, neck, head and groin first.

Warm beverages can also help, but only if the person is conscious. A person with severe hypothermia may be unconscious and may not seem to have a pulse or to be breathing. In this case, handle the victim gently and get emergency assistance immediately.

[Back to Top](#)

Check on neighbors during extreme cold

NEWS staff report

Exposure to cold temperatures, whether indoors or outside, can cause serious or life-threatening health problems. Infants and the elderly are particularly at risk, but anyone can be affected, according to information provided by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Many homes will be too cold - either due to a power failure or because insulation or the heating system isn't adequate for the weather. Those who have neighbors who might be at risk for exposure to cold, even inside their homes, are asked to check on them.

Hypothermia

Warnings signs of hypothermia in adults include shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech and drowsiness; and in infants, bright red and cold skin and very low energy.

What to do

If you notice any of these signs, take the person's temperature. If it is below 95 degrees, the situation is an emergency - get medical attention immediately.

If medical care is not available, begin warming the person, as follows:

- Get the victim into a warm room or shelter.
- Remove any wet clotting from the victim.
- Warm the center of the body first - chest, neck, head and groin - using an electric blanket, if available. Or use skin-to-skin contact under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels or sheets.
- Warm beverages can help increase the body temperature, but do not give alcoholic beverages.
- After body temperature has increased, keep the person dry and wrapped in a warm blanket, including the head and neck.

- Get medical attention as soon as possible.

A person with severe hypothermia may be unconscious and may not seem to have a pulse or to be breathing. In this case, handle the victim gently and get emergency assistance immediately.

For more information, visit www.in.gov/dhs.

[Back to Top](#)



Indiana Disaster Assistance over \$58 Million

Mon. December 22, 2008; Posted: 03:16 PM

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. -- Federal disaster assistance for Indiana residents affected by the Sept. 12 through October 6 storms and flooding is over \$58 million. The assistance is in the form of grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

To date, 25,950 homeowners and renters have applied for disaster assistance.

- * \$58,670,238 in grants and loans have been approved for Indiana applicants, which includes:

- * \$27,029,050 in housing assistance to cover temporary rental assistance, home repairs and replacement.

- * \$5,483,288 in other needs assistance to cover essential personal property losses, medical, dental, funeral, transportation or other serious disaster-related [expenses](#) not covered by insurance.

- * \$26,157,900 in U.S. Small [Business](#) Administration (SBA) disaster loans has been approved.

- * 17,374 SBA disaster loan applications have been issued to homeowners and business owners.

- * 20,499 home inspections have been completed.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

FEMA, 500 C Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20472

Disaster Assistance: (800) 621-FEMA

[Back to Top](#)



Homeland Security awards outstanding performance

Special to the Tribune-Star

INDIANAPOLIS December 20, 2008 05:16 pm

— The Indiana Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday recognized 32 employees for outstanding performance and dedication.

The annual program was begun by Gov. Mitch Daniels in 2006. It empowers agency heads to recognize outstanding performance by state employees. Within IDHS, employees are selected for the award based on a nomination by their supervisors and approval by the employee's division director.

Criteria for the award include:

- n Employees must have been in their current position for a minimum of 6 months employment at the time of receipt of award.

- n Recipients must have engaged in exceptional performance which produced a measurable outcome such as completion of a project ahead of schedule with results that exceeded expectations, creation of a solution to a problem, or exceptional customer service.

Award recipients include:

Clay County — Ray Haase, Brazil, Fire & Building Safety Division — Elevator & Amusement Inspector

Ray Haase was presented an award for working to make sure all regulated lifting devices at Lucas Oil Stadium were certified prior to opening day. He worked extra hours away from home to handle last-minute schedule changes to perform inspections at the stadium along with the new airport terminal to ensure that both would meet their opening day deadline.

Vigo County — Rick Card, Terre Haute, Emergency Response & Recovery Division — Emergency Preparedness Specialist

Rick Card worked extra hours following the September storms. He worked several long days in Lake and Clark counties in adverse conditions and brought several agencies together to form a Disaster Relief Center where residents could obtain the assistance they needed. He provided leadership, a good attitude and was willing to go above and beyond to help Homeland Security succeed in its mission.

Copyright © 1999-2008 cnhi, inc.

[Back to Top](#)